assistance from the Government of India for setting up of a Regional Science Centre at Dharwad. As the details in the proposal were inadequate, it could not be evaluated.

Earthquake Resistant Techniques in Delhi

†3822. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent Delhi is safe so far as the earthquake is concerned;

(b) whether Government would provide low cost earthquake resistant technique for the buildings to be constructed in Delhi; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) (a) As per the seismic zoning map of India published by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) the country has been divided into four seismic zones, namely Zone II, III, IV and V. While Zone V is considered to be most seismically active, Zone II is the least. As per this map Delhi falls in Zone IV.

(b) and (c) The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has published various guidelines and codes for design and construction of earthquake resistant structures, as well as retrofitting of buildings etc. Losses due to earthquakes can considerably be reduced if these guidelines/codes are followed during new constructions/strengthening of existing structures etc.

Funds for Scientific Institutions

3823. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a nodal Government agency in place which determines and disburses funds to different institutes, including Universities for scientific and basic research;

(b) if so, the details thereof including its composition and functions; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government would consider the question of setting up such an agency which would oversee the funding of all projects of research of national importance?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) (a) to (d) There are several Central Government departments and agencies which are supporting basic research in different institutions including Universities. Department of Science & Technology, through its Science & Engineering Research Council (SERC) is supporting fundamental and basic research in academic institutions, national labs etc. Other departments such as Department of Biotechnology, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space etc are also supporting research in specific areas of their interest. The composition of the SERC and its terms of reference are attached in Statement I and II. (*See* below) Action has been initiated to evolve a mechanism to oversee the funding of all research of national importance.

Statement-I

SERC Composition (2004—2007)

1.	Professor V S Ramamurthy Secretary Department of Science & Technology Technology Bhavan, New Mehrauli Road New Delhi- 110016.	—	Chairman
2.	Professor D Mukherjee Director, Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science Jadavpur Kolkata — 700032	—	Member
3.	Dr. T Ramasami Director, Central Leather Research Institute Adyar Chennai — 600020	—	Member
4.	Professor Ila Junjappa Department of Chemistry Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur — 208016	—	Member
5.	Professor G. S. Agarwal Director, Physical Research Laboratory Navrangpura Ahmedabad — 380009	—	Member

6.	Professor P. K. Kaw Director, Institute of Plasma Research Bhat Gandhi Nagar — 382428	—	Member
7.	Professor Vikram Kumar Director, National Physical Laboratory Dr. K. S. Krishnan Marg New Delhi — 110012	—	Member
8.	Dr. S. E. Hasnain Director, Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics Nacharam Hyderabad — 500076	—	Member
9.	Professor S. K. Sopory Plant Molecular Biology International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Aruna Asaf Ali Marg New Delhi — 110067	—	Member
10.	Professor M Vijayan Molecular Biophysics Unit Indian Institute of Science Bangalore — 560012	—	Member
11.	Professor Surendra Prasad Department of Electrical Engineering Indian Institute of Technology Delhi New Delhi — 110016	—	Member
12.	Dr. Harinarayana Kota Vice-Chancellor University of Hyderabad Central University PO Hyderabad — 500046	—	Member
13.	Professor M. L. Munjal Division of Mechanical Sciences Indian Institute of Science Bangalore — 560012	—	Member

14.	Professor Ashok Jhunjhunwala Department of Electrical Engineering Indian Institute of Technology Madras Chennai — 600036	—	Member
15.	Dr. G. Sundararajan Director, International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI) Hyderabad — 500005	—	Member
16.	Professor Ashok Kumar Singhvi Earth Science Division Physical Research Laboratory Navrangpura Ahmedabad — 380009	—	Member
17.	Professor J. Srinivasan Chairman, Centre for Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences Indian Institute of Science Bangalore — 560012	—	Member
18.	Professor Alok K. Gupta Head, Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences Allahabad University Allahabad — 211002	—	Member
19.	Dr. P. Jagannathan Group General Manager - Corporate R&D Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) Sirifort, Khel Gaon Marg New Delhi — 110049	—	Member
20.	Dr. V. Rao Aiyagari Head (SERC) & Adviser Department of Science & Technology Technology Bhawan, New Mehrauli Road New Delhi — 110016	—	Member Secretary

Statement-II

Terms of Reference:

1. To advise the Department in the formulation of guidelines for receiving and processing research proposals for support under the scheme.

2. To advise on the suitability and extent of grant for research programmes referred to the Council.

3. To make suitable recommendations on the choice of discipline and specific fields which need increased support for research.

4. To evaluate the progress of each research programme supported by it and make suitable recommendations regarding its continuation or otherwise.

5. To render advice on the form and manner in which data relating to research grants and fellowships being administered by various scientific agencies and departments in the country are to be published from time to time for the benefit of scientific research workers and the funding authorities.

6. To advise the Department on the manner and method of commissioning State-of-Art Reports.

First aid for accidents on highways

†3824. SHRI KALRAJ MISRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ambulances alongwith the names of hospitals provided for extending first aid for the accidents occurring on Highways/Expressways and golden quadrilateral in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the loss of life and property during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA) (a) Rescue and relief of road users in case of accidents is the responsibility of the State Government. Under the National Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme, 22 ambulances have been provided to Police/Transport authorities as also NGOs in Uttar Pradesh since 2000-2001 for evacuating accidents victims to the nearest medical aid center.

(b) As reported by the State Government, the number of persons killed in road accident on National Highways (NHs) in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years are as under:—

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi